



PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Announces Over \$1.7 Million in Brownfields Funding For Five Projects

Remediation will spur development of commercial space, new housing, and prepare sites for future growth

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Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

Office of Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito

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LAWRENCE — The Baker-Polito Administration announced \$1,707,440 in Brownfields Redevelopment Fund grants to support the environmental assessment and cleanup of contaminated and challenging

sites across the Commonwealth.

“The Brownfields Redevelopment Fund is a valuable tool for communities to identify economic opportunities and leverage existing resources, including former industrial sites,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “These awards provide critical seed funding for municipalities to spur new growth and attract private investment, resulting in new housing, retail, commercial, or mixed-use developments.”

“These awards will help cities and towns turn challenges into assets,” **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito**. “The transformation of underutilized or vacant land into productive opportunities gives municipalities the ability take charge of future development and our administration looks forward to working with our partners at the local level on these projects.”

“The Brownfields Redevelopment Fund helps cities and towns create shovel-ready sites and lay important groundwork for economic development,” **said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash**. “These unused sites are often some of the largest in the Commonwealth and now can be transformed into housing, commercial, or industrial spaces that create jobs and enliven communities.”

In Lawrence, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and MassDevelopment President and CEO Lauren Liss joined Mayor Daniel Rivera to announce the awards at Duck Mill, a site that local nonprofit Lawrence CommunityWorks cleaned up and transformed into 73 units of housing and 10,000 square feet of commercial space. Lawrence CommunityWorks previously received grants from the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund for the Duck Mill project and for Union Crossing, which consists of 60 units of affordable housing, 40,000 square feet of commercial space, and a playground across the street from Duck Mill.

“The Brownfields Redevelopment Fund is a proven economic driver, transforming challenging sites into productive parcels for business, nonprofit use, and housing across the Commonwealth,” **said MassDevelopment President and CEO Lauren Liss**. “We are grateful to the Baker-Polito Administration and the Legislature for their support of this fund, and to Massachusetts’ 351 cities and towns for partnering with us on these projects.”

“Brownfields funding is a key building block for all development housing, commercial or job growth, and for general placemaking,” **said Lawrence Mayor Daniel Rivera**. “Thanks to the Baker Polito administration for its support of these crucial development dollars!”

“Lawrence is prime for revitalization, but grants like this are crucial to making it a reality. I’m so glad that we are partnering with Lawrence CommunityWorks on this important economic development project and I hope to see the Marriner Building project come to fruition,” **said Senator Barbara A. L’Italien**. “We are seeing more and more new life and economic growth the old mill buildings – one of the city’s best resources.”

"I am pleased to see that the city of Lawrence will be receiving a site assessment grant from the Brownfield Redevelopment Fund as Lawrence CommunityWorks continues to explore the possibility of purchasing the Marriner Building," **said Representative Juana Matias.** "Previous projects funded by the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund in the city of Lawrence have greatly improved housing options, stimulated our local economy and contributed to overall improvements to the quality of life in Lawrence".

2018 Brownfields Redevelopment Fund Awards:

27 Katrina Road Project, Chelmsford, \$1,351,000

Chelmsford will use the funds to address contamination of groundwater beneath the site. Katrina Road LLC, an affiliated company of NRT, Bus, and Trombly Motor Coach Service Inc., intends to build a 10,000-square-foot building to use as a school bus maintenance terminal, office, and training facility. The site will also house on-site storage for approximately 60 school buses. Upon completion of the project, the facility will have 10 full-time employees, seven of which will be newly created jobs, and 30 part-time employees, all of which will be newly created jobs, on site. The Chelmsford location is expected to grow to 40 full-time and 60 part-time employees in five years.

NewVue Affordable Housing Corporation Project, Gardner, \$134,230

NewVue Affordable Housing Corporation, a community development corporation, is using brownfields recoverable grant funds for soil gas and indoor air remediation at a two-story downtown block building at 246-248 Central Street in Gardner. Once the property is safe for occupancy, NewVue plans to open a career and homeownership center on the bottom floor of the building, and will create three units of affordable housing on the upper floors. NewVue also received a grant through the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund in FY17.

CommunityWorks' Marriner Building Project, Lawrence, \$88,770

Lawrence CommunityWorks will use this site assessment grant as part of its due diligence for a potential purchase of the Marriner Building, a 476,000-square-foot building that is part of the Polartec Inc. manufacturing complex. Lawrence CommunityWorks is contemplating a mixed-use redevelopment that would include 180 affordable rental units alongside retail and commercial uses in Lawrence's Arlington District neighborhood.

VietAID 195 Bowdoin Street Project, Dorchester, \$33,500

VietAID, a community development corporation, will create 41 new affordable housing units on a currently vacant lot that once housed an auto repair facility in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood. The site has been a vacant parcel since early 2000s and in 2003, the parcel was identified as having recognized environmental conditions (RECs). These were specific to the storage and use of various petroleum products at the former automotive business facility that operated at the site. Cooperstown Environmental, of Andover, has been hired to conduct the site assessment activity on the parcel.

Bay and Tapley Project, Springfield, \$99,940

This grant will finance an environmental site assessment on four city-owned properties with a total land area of approximately 14 acres. The highly visible parcels are zoned industrial with easy highway access, making them ideal for an industrial or manufacturing reuse. The current scope of work would evaluate the four parcels together and reconcile multiple release tracking numbers, which are the numbers that the Department of Environmental Protection assigns to sites with a release of oil or hazardous materials.

About MassDevelopment

MassDevelopment, the state's finance and development agency, works with businesses, nonprofits, financial institutions, and communities to stimulate economic growth across the Commonwealth. During FY2017, MassDevelopment financed or managed 377 projects generating investment of more than \$4.3 billion in the Massachusetts economy. These projects are projected to create about 9,488 jobs and build or rehabilitate 1,863 residential units.

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